

The Committee on Children

February 11, 2016

**RE: *AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF RECYCLED TIRE RUBBER AT MUNICIPAL AND PUBLIC SCHOOL PLAYGROUNDS.* Bill 5139**

To the Committee:

It makes absolutely no sense for children to play on or near materials known to contain carcinogens when there are other options (bark, pine needles, grass) that are safer.

My daughter was diagnosed with leukemia at age three, and spent 2-1/2 years enduring a grueling cycle of chemotherapy, spinal taps, and bone marrow aspirations. I'm writing to tell you it was hell for her, and for us, and that doing anything that increases another small person's chances of suffering like that is inexcusable.

It doesn't matter whether the risk posed by crumb rubber is "significant" or small, "proven beyond a doubt" or anecdotally compelling. Why? Because rates of childhood leukemia and brain cancer have increased 40 percent since the 70s. Because children's organ systems are growing and changing dynamically. Because they take in more air, water, and food relative to their body weight than adults do.

But the real reason to keep crumb rubber away from children's play areas is because we *can*. We have very little control over the traffic on our streets or the chemicals in our water, but we can and should protect our littlest and most vulnerable citizens from exposure to the toxic compounds found in shredded tire waste.

I urge you to support Raised Bill 5139.

Thank you,

Stacy Prince  
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